

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-16 and 23-44 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12 and 14-16 are amended, claims 2, 11 and 17-22 have been cancelled and claims 23-44 have been added. In particular, the allowable features recited in claims 2 and 11 have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 6, 10 and 14-16.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with this Amendment. It is requested that the Examiner consider the reference cited in that Information Disclosure Statement and return an initialed Form PTO-1449 to Applicant's representative.

Claims 1 and 3 were objected to based on various informalities. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 have been amended responsive to the objection. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

The rejections of claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 12-16 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kojima et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,308,947, in view of Yamamoto, U.S. Patent No. 6,185,388, and claims 1, 3-10 and 12-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Sato et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,123,329, have been rendered moot because the allowable features of claims 2 and 11 have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 6, 10 and 14-16.

It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/sxb

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal
Information Disclosure Statement

Date: February 17, 2006

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